

CLAIMS:

1. A method for automatically searching at least one information source (2, 3) accessible through a data network (6) for contents (4A - 4F) that are supplied by this information source (2, 3) and satisfy at least one predefined criterion, which contents comprise useful information (NI) and metadata (ZI) that characterizes the useful information (NI), the information source (2, 3) changing the content supplied by it under the control of control signals (CTRL), comprising:
- 5 selecting an information source (2, 3),
receiving at least a part of the content (4A - 4F) supplied by the information source (2, 3) selected, which part contains the metadata (ZI),
10 analyzing the metadata (ZI) in respect of the predefined criteria and,
if the criteria are satisfied, processing the useful information (NI) received,
and
for as long as the at least one predefined criterion is not satisfied, generating a control signal (CTRL) and transmitting it to the information source (2, 3) to change the
15 content (4A - 4F) supplied by the information source (2, 3), and again receiving at least a part of the content (4A - 4F) supplied by the information source, which part contains the metadata (ZI), and analyzing the metadata (ZI) in respect of the predefined criteria.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the generation of the control signal (CTRL) and its transmission to the information source (2, 3) is carried out for
20 as long as the at least one predefined criterion or an abort criterion is not satisfied, the abort criterion being defined as repeated reception of the same metadata (ZI) from the same information source (2, 3).
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the generation of the control signal (CTRL) and its transmission to the information source (2, 3) is carried out for
25 as long as the at least one predefined criterion or an abort criterion is not satisfied, the abort criterion being defined as failure to receive metadata (ZI) from the information source (2, 3) selected at the time within a predefined period of time.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that another information source (3, 2) is selected if the abort criterion is met.

5 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that, after the last available information source (3, 2) has been selected and an abort criterion met, the search method is discontinued or is suspended for a predefined period of time, and is then continued with the selection of an available information source (2, 3).

10 6. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the processing of the useful information (NI) includes the recording of this information on a data carrier.

7. A search arrangement (1) for automatically searching at least one information source (2, 3) accessible through a data network (6) for contents (4A - 4F) that are supplied by
15 this information source and satisfy at least one predefined criterion, which contents comprise useful information (NI), and metadata (ZI) that characterizes the useful information (NI), the information source (2, 3) changing the content (4A - 4F) supplied by it under the control of a control signal (CTRL), which search arrangement (1) has receiving means (5) that are
20 arranged to select a connection to an information source (2, 3) and to receive useful information (NI) and metadata (ZI) from the information source (2, 3) selected, and which search arrangement (1) has analyzing means (7) that are arranged to analyze the metadata received (ZI) in respect of the at least one predefined criterion and, if the criterion is not satisfied, to generate and emit an activating signal (NE) that represents the non-satisfaction, and which search arrangement (1) has processing means (9) that are arranged to process the
25 useful information (NI) received, and which search arrangement (1) has control-signal generating means (14) that are arranged to generate the control signal (CTRL) and transmit it to the information source (2, 3) to change the contents (4A - 4F) supplied by the information source (2, 3), the control-signal generating means (14) being so arranged that they can be activated by the analyzing means (7) with the help of the activating signal (NE).

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8. A search arrangement (1) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the analyzing means (7) are arranged to take into account an abort criterion, which is defined as repeated reception of the same metadata (ZI) from the same information source (2, 3) and in

that, if this abort criterion is met, the analyzing means (7) are arranged to terminate the analysis of the metadata (ZI) received from the selected information source (2, 3).

9. A search arrangement (1) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the
5 analyzing means (7) are arranged to take into account an abort criterion which is defined as failure to receive metadata (ZI) from the information source (2, 3) selected at the time within a predefined period of time, and in that, if this abort criterion is met, the analyzing means (7) are arranged to terminate their wait for the metadata (ZI) that is not received from the selected information source (2, 3) during the said period.

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10. A search arrangement (1) as claimed in claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the analyzing means (7) are arranged to generate an information-source selecting signal (SS) and emit it to the receiving means (5) if the abort criterion is met, and in that, when the information-source selecting signal (SS) is present, the receiving means (5) are arranged to
15 select an information source (3, 2) other than the information source (2, 3) that was selected when the abort criterion was met.

11. A search arrangement (1) as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the search arrangement (1) is arranged, after the last available information source (3, 2) has been
20 selected and the abort criterion met, to discontinue its search of the information sources (2, 3) accessible through the data network (6), or to suspend its search for an available information source (2, 3) for a predefined period of time and then to continue it again.

12. A search arrangement (1) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that input
25 means (15) are provided for the input of criteria for the contents and/or for the input of information-source addresses.

13. A search arrangement (1) as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the processing means (9) are connected to display means (10) and/or audio reproduction means
30 (11) and/or means (12) for recording useful information.

14. An arrangement for processing useful information having a search arrangement as claimed in any of claims 7 to 13.